

BV Fact Sheet

BV, caused by bacterial vaginosis, is one of the most common forms of vaginal infections.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

Individuals are commonly asymptomatic (without symptoms).

Symptoms in women include:

- Unpleasant vaginal odor
- Strong, 'fishy smell' is common, especially after intercourse
- Non-viscous, white or gray, vaginal discharge present
- Burning during urination
- Itching around the outside of the vagina

TRANSMISSION

BV infections are transmitted through:

- Vaginal, anal, or oral sex

COMPLICATIONS/CONSEQUENCES

If untreated, infections may result in:

- An increased susceptibility to other STDs, like chlamydia and gonorrhea.
- An increase in a woman's risk of acquiring HIV via heterosexual contact.
- An increase in the chances that an HIV infected woman will pass HIV to her sex partner.
- An increase in the risk of acquiring Pelvic Inflammatory Disease, PID, following surgical procedures such as a hysterectomy or an abortion.

If untreated in pregnancy, BV can lead to:

- Low birth weight deliveries
- Intra-amnionic infection
- Chorioamnionitis
- Postpartum endometritis

TREATMENT

Treatment should include:

- Antibiotics (commonly metronidazole or Clindamycin) prescribed by a health care provider
- Appropriate treatment of partner
- Re-infection after treatment is possible.

PREVENTION

- Abstain from sexual contact
- Appropriate use of latex condoms consistently and correctly during vaginal, anal, and oral sex on a penis
- Appropriate use of latex barrier for oral sex on a vagina or anus
- Avoidance of sexual contact with a partner until treatment is completed

Recommendations for prohibiting the spread of infection:

- Discontinue sexual contact if signs or symptoms occur
- Notify all recent sex partners if infected
- Take all medication prescribed, even if you stop having symptoms.

Contact Information:

For more information pertaining to Florida clinical services, sites, and treatment recommendations please visit us on the web at http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease_ctrl/std/clinical/clinical.html or email us at: HSD_STD@doh.state.fl.us.

National STD Hotline

1-800-227-8922 (24 hrs, 7 days a week)

Spanish

1-800-344-7432 (8am-2pm EST, 7 days a week)

Hearing Impaired

1-800-243-7889 (10am-10pm EST, Mon.-Fri.)